(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Sir, Cellular Phones are already covered under the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) of World Trade Organization to which India is a Signatory. As such, Cellular Phones are IT Instruments.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Cellphone consumers in Karnataka

3595. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many BSNL cellphone prepaid and post paid customers are there in Karnataka and the reasons for stopping release of new connections; and

(b) Whether it is a fact that Sim Cards are in short supply which is expected from other countries for which Government have already issued order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) BSNL has provided 127357 Prepaid and 72848 Postpaid Cellular connections upto 31.3.2003, in the state of Karnataka and continues to provide the new connections.

(b) No, Sir.

Promotion of international gateways in N.E.R.

3596. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various international gateways for internet running in the country, in Government as well as non-Government Sectors, State-wise;

(b) the action taken by Government to promote more international gateways in the NER;

(c) whether any applications for grant of licenses to operate international internet gateways in the region is pending; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the target fixed to clear such applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) The details of international gateways for internet running in the country in Government and non-Government sectors are given in Statement I and II (*See* below).

(b) In order to promote setting up of more international gateways in the country. Government has permitted the same in security sensitive areas including NER.

(c) and (d) One private ISP licensee company has applied for setting up of International Gateways for Internet at Guwahati. All the required clearances have been obtained and in-principle permission shall be granted shortly.

Statement-I

List of International Gateways for Internet operated by organisations in Government Sector

Sl.No.	State	Organisation	Gateway Location
1	Karnataka	STPI	Bangalore
2	Uttar Pradesh	STPI	Noida
3	Orissa	STPI	Bhubaneswar
4	Maharashtra	STPI	Navi Mumbai
5	Maharashtra	STPI	Pune
6	Delhi	NIC	Delhi (two gateways)

Statement-II

List of International Gateways for Internet operated in Non-Government Sector

Sr.No.	State/UT	Name of company	Gateway location
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Sify Limited	Secunderabad
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Appologic Broadband Systems Ltd.	Hyderabad
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Astra Infonet Pvt. Ltd.	Hyderabad
4.	Andhra Pradesh	Dishnet DSL Ltd.	Hyderabad
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Estel Communication Pvt. Ltd.	Hyderabad
6.	Andhra Pradesh	Tata Internet Services Ltd.	Hyderabad
7.	Chandigarh	SAB Infotech Ltd.	Chandigarh
8.	Chandigarh	Sify Limited	Chandigarh
9.	Delhi	Bharti BT Internet Ltd.	Delhi
10.	Delhi	Data Access (India) Ltd.	Delhi
11.	Delhi	Direct Internet Ltd.	Delhi
12.	Delhi	Dishnet DSL Ltd.	Delhi
13.	Delhi	Estel Communication Pvt. Ltd.	Delhi
14.	Delhi	Primus Telecommunication India Ltd.	Delhi
15.	Delhi	Sify Limited	Delhi
16.	Delhi	Sify Limited	Delhi
17.	Delhi	Trak Online Net India Pvt. Ltd.	Delhi

Sr.No.	State/UT	Name of company	Gateway location
18.	Delhi	VSNL	Delhi
19.	Delhi	World Phone Services Pvt. Ltd.	Delhi
20.	Gujarat	GNFC Ltd.	Bharauch
21.	Gujarat	Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	Ahmedabad
22.	Gujarat	ICENETT NET Ltd.	Ahmedabad
23.	Gujarat	Sify Limited	Ahmedabad
24.	Gujarat	Wilnet Communication Ltd.	Ahmedabad
25.	Karnataka	Bharti BT Ineternet Ltd.	Bangalore
26.	Karnataka	Estel Communication Pvt. Ltd.	Bangalore
27.	Karnataka	Primus Telecommunication India Ltd.	Bangalore
28.	Karnataka	Sify Limited	Bangalore
29.	Karnataka	Siti Cable Network Ltd.	Bangalore
30.	Kerala	VSNL	Kochi
31.	Madhya Pradesh	Bharti BT Internet Ltd.	Bhopal
32.	Madhya Pradesh	Sify Limited	Bhopal
33.	Maharashtra	Bharti BT Internet Ltd.	Pune
34.	Maharashtra	Data Access (India) Ltd.	Mumbai
35.	Maharashtra	Sify Limited	Pune
36.	Maharashtra	VSNL	Mumbai
37.	Tamilnadu	Bharti BT Internet Ltd.	Chennai
38.	Tamilnadu	Data Access (India) Ltd.	Chennai

Sr.No.	State/UT	Name of company	Gateway location
39.	Tamilnadu	Dishnet DSL Ltd.	Chennai
40.	Tamilnadu	Primus Telecommunication India Ltd.	Chennai
41.	Tamilnadu	Sify Limited	Chennai
42.	Tamilnadu	Sify Limited	Chennai
43.	Tamilnadu	Trak Online Net India Pvt. Ltd.	Chennai
44.	Uttar Pradesh	HCL Comnet Systems and Services Ltd.	Noida
45.	Uttar Pradesh	Phoenix Overseas Ltd.	Noida
46.	Uttar Pradesh	Sify Limited	Lucknow
47.	West Bengal	VSNL	Kolkata
48.	West Bengal	Bharti BT Internet Ltd.	Kolkata
49.	West Bengal	HCL Comnet Systems and Services Ltd.	Kharagpur
50.	West Bengal	Sify Limited	Kolkata

VRS in VSNL

3597. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) has plans to introduce a Voluntary Retirement Scheme for its staff in the near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.